

Social Security Administration

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the charges have been sustained because the representative has been disbarred or suspended from any court or bar to which he or she was previously admitted to practice or disqualified from participating in or appearing before any Federal program or agency, or because the representative has collected or received, and retains, a fee for representational services in excess of the amount authorized.

(4) The hearing officer shall mail a copy of the decision to the parties at their last known addresses. The notice will inform the parties of the right to request the Appeals Council to review the decision.

(b) Effect of hearing officer's decision.

(1) The hearing officer's decision is final and binding unless reversed or modified by the Appeals Council upon review.

(2) If the final decision is that a person is disqualified from being a representative in dealings with us, he or she will not be permitted to represent anyone in dealings with us until authorized to do so under the provisions of § 404.1799.

(3) If the final decision is that a person is suspended for a specified period of time from being a representative in dealings with us, he or she will not be permitted to represent anyone in dealings with us during the period of suspension unless authorized to do so under the provisions of § 404.1799.

[45 FR 52090, Aug. 5, 1980, as amended at 56 FR 24132, May 29, 1991; 63 FR 41417, Aug. 4, 1998; 71 FR 2877, Jan. 18, 2006]

§ 404.1775 Requesting review of the hearing officer's decision.

(a) *General.* After the hearing officer issues a decision, either the representative or the other party to the hearing may ask the Appeals Council to review the decision.

(b) *Time and place of filing request for review.* The party requesting review shall file the request for review in writing with the Appeals Council within 30 days from the date the hearing officer mailed the notice. The party requesting review shall certify that a copy of the request for review and of any documents that are submitted have been mailed to the opposing party.

§ 404.1776 Assignment of request for review of the hearing officer's decision.

Upon receipt of a request for review of the hearing officer's decision, the matter will be assigned to a panel consisting of three members of the Appeals Council none of whom shall be the Chair of the Appeals Council. The panel shall jointly consider and rule by majority opinion on the request for review of the hearing officer's decision, including a determination to dismiss the request for review. Matters other than a final disposition of the request for review may be disposed of by the member designated chair of the panel.

[56 FR 24132, May 29, 1991]

§ 404.1780 Appeals Council's review of hearing officer's decision.

(a) Upon request, the Appeals Council shall give the parties a reasonable time to file briefs or other written statements as to fact and law, and to appear before the Appeals Council to present oral argument.

(b) If a party files a brief or other written statement with the Appeals Council, he or she shall send a copy to the opposing party and certify that the copy has been sent.

§ 404.1785 Evidence permitted on review.

(a) *General.* Generally, the Appeals Council will not consider evidence in addition to that introduced at the hearing. However, if the Appeals Council believes that the evidence offered is material to an issue it is considering, the evidence will be considered.

(b) Individual charged filed an answer.

(1) When the Appeals Council believes that additional material evidence is available, and the representative has filed an answer to the charges, the Appeals Council shall require that the evidence be obtained. The Appeals Council may name an administrative law judge or a member of the Appeals Council to receive the evidence.

(2) Before additional evidence is admitted into the record, the Appeals Council shall mail a notice to the parties, telling them that evidence about certain issues will be obtained, unless the notice is waived. The Appeals

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Council shall give each party a reasonable opportunity to comment on the evidence and to present other evidence that is material to an issue it is considering.

(c) *Individual charged did not file an answer.* If the representative did not file an answer to the charges, the Appeals Council will not permit the introduction of evidence that was not considered at the hearing.

§ 404.1790 Appeals Council's decision.

(a) The Appeals Council shall base its decision upon the evidence in the hearing record and any other evidence it may permit on review. The Appeals Council shall either—

(1) Affirm, reverse, or modify the hearing officer's decision; or

(2) Return a case to the hearing officer when the Appeals Council considers it appropriate.

(b) The Appeals Council, in changing a hearing officer's decision to suspend a representative for a specified period, shall in no event reduce the period of suspension to less than 1 year. In modifying a hearing officer's decision to disqualify a representative, the Appeals Council shall in no event impose a period of suspension of less than 1 year. Further, the Appeals Council shall in no event impose a suspension when disqualification is the sole sanction available in accordance with § 404.1770(a)(3)(ii).

(c) If the Appeals Council affirms or changes a hearing officer's decision, the period of suspension or the disqualification is effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision.

(d) If the hearing officer did not impose a period of suspension or a disqualification, and the Appeals Council decides to impose one or the other, the suspension or disqualification is effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision.

(e) The Appeals Council shall make its decision in writing and shall mail a copy of the decision to the parties at their last known addresses.

[45 FR 52090, Aug. 5, 1980, as amended at 56 FR 24132, May 29, 1991; 71 FR 2877, Jan. 18, 2006]

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§ 404.1795 When the Appeals Council will dismiss a request for review.

The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for the review of any proceeding to suspend or disqualify a representative in any of the following circumstances:

(a) *Upon request of party.* The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for review upon written request of the party or parties who filed the request if there is no other party who objects to the dismissal.

(b) *Death of party.* The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for review in the event of the death of the representative.

(c) *Request for review not timely filed.* The Appeals Council will dismiss a request for review if a party failed to file a request for review within the 30-day time period and the Appeals Council does not extend the time for good cause.

§ 404.1797 Reinstatement after suspension—period of suspension expired.

We shall automatically allow a person to serve again as a representative in dealings with us at the end of any suspension.

§ 404.1799 Reinstatement after suspension or disqualification—period of suspension not expired.

(a) After more than one year has passed, a person who has been suspended or disqualified, may ask the Appeals Council for permission to serve as a representative again.

(b) The suspended or disqualified person shall submit any evidence he or she wishes to have considered along with the request to be allowed to serve as a representative again.

(c) The Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs (or other official the Commissioner may designate), or his or her designee, upon notification of receipt of the request, shall have 30 days in which to present a written report of any experiences with the suspended or disqualified person subsequent to that person's suspension or disqualification. The Appeals Council shall make available to the suspended or disqualified person a copy of the report.